THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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NEWS FROM SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY (SSRL)

The Home Library Service is just one of SSRL's special services, but for the people who use it, it is a blessing. The service began in January 1989 to meet the needs of borrowers who cannot use library facilities because of age or disability. Coordinated by Special Reader Services Coordinator Winnifred McCarthy, the program's strength lies in the dedicated volunteers who are trained by library staff to choose books for others. The volunteers are then matched with people (Home Readers) who enjoy reading but cannot physically go to a town or mobile branch to choose their own books.

Technical Services at SSRL
Library staff continue to phase in automation with the issue of the first barcoded registration card on January 6/98. New borrowers will receive the new cards as they register. Registered borrowers will receive new cards as their old cards expire.

Technical Services is enjoying the benefit of three extra staff this spring. Patricia Selig will complete 6 weeks of on-the-job training as a requirement for the Library Technician's course at the Nova Scotia Community College. A Nova Scotia Links grant will allow Ryan Beazley to assist with automation projects from January 5 - May 8/98. A Community Services grant will provide Wanda Slauenwhite with 16 weeks of training in the Technical Services Dept.

Volunteers will once again staff income tax clinics at Library Branches in Liverpool and Lunenburg. The volunteers, trained by Revenue Canada, will prepare tax returns for low income earners, senior citizens and new Canadians. Library volunteers have prepared returns for nearly 2,000 people at Library clinics since the program began twelve years ago.

1997 was the Library's 25th anniversary. Celebrations included author readings (Marq de Villiers and Sheila Hirtle in Lunenburg, Mark Finnan in Bridgewater and Marjorie Speed in Liverpool), a birthday card contest for kids, a cake at each Branch, fee amnesty and asking each Municipality and Town in our region to proclaim the last week in November as Library Week.

NEWS FROM PICTOU-ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is pleased to announce the launch of our new web site at: **www.parl.ns.ca.** Working closely with our staff, these pages were designed as part of our Books by Web project by Ellen Crumley, a library school student who has been with us for the past 3 months. Ellen's report on the Books by Web project is completed and will be available on our web site later this month. Our new home pages include several new pages for kids and teenagers. -- Fred Popowich.

NEWS FROM WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

As a result of successfully launching the Internet based Western Health Information Project, a first for the province, Regional Director, Trudy Amirault, and Health Sciences Librarian, Jackie MacDonald, from the Western Regional Health Centre, were invited to speak at the Digital II Conference in Toronto this past October. The theme of the conference was "Building Electronic Space For Community Health Information." Keynote speaker Dr. Jon Gerrard, former Secretary of State, Science, Research and Development and Western Economic Diversification had this to say: "The presentation by Trudy Amirault and Jackie MacDonald was one of the most exciting at the conference. The Western Health Information Project brings a very effective partnership between the regional library and the regional health authority and builds on the community access program infrastructure to deliver the health information needed by the people in their home communities."

The goal of raising $30,000 for 1997-98 is shaping up to be a reality for Western Counties Regional Library. As of January 12th 1998, $29,310 has been raised. The "How Much is a Million?" penny campaign brought in $16,633; and sales from "Come to Supper: Favourite Recipes from Southwestern Nova Scotia", sponsored by Sobeys, currently total $5,725. The remainder of funds have been realized through book sales and donations. Fundraising plans for 1998-99 include the launching of our second Adopt-A-Book campaign on April 1st. The goal is to have 1000 new titles on the shelves by June 30th. To assist us in reaching our goal, radio station CJLS has pledged its support once again as sponsor of the campaign. The first Adopt-A-Book, held in 1996, resulted in 1181 new titles for the region. Organizers are anticipating a repeat success story for this year. To encourage year-round donations at the branch level, transparent donation boxes will be placed at all libraries throughout the region. Sobeys has agreed to cover the cost of the 10 boxes. This contribution is another example of Sobeys' on-going support of our regional library.

On Jan 31, 1997 the Digby Library opened its doors to the public in its new location at 84 Warwick Street. The Honourable Robbie Harrison, Minister of Education and Culture, officially re-named the branch, the Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library. Isaiah Wilson spent a life-time gathering information about his beloved county, often walking to Halifax (a two week trek!) to conduct his research. Since the move to larger and more accessible quarters, the Digby branch has shown a 40 % increase in circulation. An open house was held on January 30th to mark the first anniversary.

Circulation went online at Yarmouth, our largest branch, in December, and will be launched at the Clare branch in early February. Outgoing Interlibrary Loans are also being handled by the DRA/MultilLIS system. Work will continue through the winter and early spring to automate circulation in the remaining five of our ten branches. Staff members at automated branches appreciate the relief from the drudgery of clerical routines which automation has brought: filing, counting circulation cards, slipping books, writing overdue notices - all are largely a thing of the past. With Western Counties' collection being shown first to users of our online catalogue, staff have noticed a decided increase in the percentage of requests made for materials within the region. Following initial training in late October, preparations are underway to implement the DRA/MultiLIS acquisitions system in April.-- Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin.

CULTURAL POLICY LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia's first official cultural policy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly, December 2, 1997. It is available in both official languages. Drafted in consultation with more than 500 Nova Scotians, the policy outlines government's strong commitment to the arts, cultural industries and heritage, and recognizes their critical meaning to individuals and communities. Nova Scotia Arts Council Executive Director Russell Kelly expressed positive comments about the new policy. Copies of the policy are available on the Department of Education and Culture's website at www.ednet.ns.ca or through the Government Bookstore at 1-800-526-6575. For more information, contact Catherine MacIsaac at 424-2797 or macisacl@ednet.ns.ca

NcompasS NEWS

Centre provinciale de ressources pédagogiques (CPRP), the teacher's resource centre at Pointe-de-l'Eglise has signed a letter of intent to join the NcompasS consortium. The CPRP staff will be invited to attend the Automation Management Committee and Automation Working Group meetings as observers, until they become full participants, hopefully later in 1998. The TAOS OPAC, the new Web-based fully Windows-compliant interface for NcompasS has been shipped from the vendor and plans are underway for its installation and configuration on the server. This product will make NcompasS more user-friendly for the public to search. One recent development which will be of great interest to people searching NcompasS, is that Novanet will also be searchable at the same time as NcompasS, using the Z39.50 multiple database searching facility which is embedded in the software.

CANADIAN INITIATIVE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The initial meeting of the Steering Committee of the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL) was held November 27-28, 1997 at the National Library of Canada. The Steering Committee members are:

Pam Bjornson - Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM)
Claude Bonnelly - Université Laval
Aldyth Holmes - CISTI
Ernie Ingles - University of Alberta (Chair)

Carole Moore - University of Toronto, Robarts Library
Marianne Scott - National Library of Canada
John Teskey - University of New Brunswick, Harriet Irving Library

It was agreed that a co-ordinated approach to digitization efforts is needed and that CIDL could act as the "co-ordinating" body. This co-ordinated approach is essential to ensure that long-term access and preservation requirements are addressed. As well, it was agreed that the focus should be to develop Canadian digital content and that a standards-based approach to the development of digital resources is also essential. While Canadian content was interpreted broadly, a number of libraries were interested in pursuing digitization projects based on their local history collections. Three priority areas of activity were identified for attention by future CIDL Working Groups:

1.Production/methodology for creating digital resources
2.Organizational/Access issues (metadata)
3.Promotion/communications strategy

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in February 1998. The agenda will include a half-day session on advocacy and communications issues to allow the Steering Committee to develop a Communications and Advocacy Plan. As well, the other working groups will begin their work in the new year. Development of the CIDL web site continues and an article on CIDL activities is scheduled to appear in the January issue of D-Lib Magazine (http://www.dlib.org).

STAFFING NEWS

Sue Dirani, former editor of the Disseminator, has resigned from Provincial Library, User Services to take a new position in the library of the Halifax Revenue Canada office. Best wishes, Sue, in your new career.
Sheldon Mitchell, Co-ordinator of School Libraries, resigned December 12, 1997. Although Sheldon was not with us for long, we will miss his enthusiasm and vitality.
Debbie Ross, Secretary to the Provincial Librarian will be taking a six month leave of absence from Feb 16 - Sept 14, 1998. During her leave she will participate in a UN Tour in the Golan Heights, Israel as part of her duty with the Army Reserves. We wish her well in this undertaking.

VISITORS TO THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

Lise Bourque, Librarian for L'Ecole du Carrefour has made several visits to the Provincial Library, having sessions with staff from both Technical Services and User Services to try and develop some efficiencies to the services she offers to a large student and community population of Francophones in the Metro area.
Daphne Cragg, Reference Librarian at Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, has been spending some time over the last few months with User Services staff. She has been reviewing the reference services offered and researching useful sources. This is a good exchange opportunity between User Services staff and Regional Libraries staff. Any staff member from the regions is welcome to visit in this

way.

TRAINING NEWS

Introducing Dewey Decimal 21 in the public library system

Marlene Mortimore, an instructor in the Library Technician program at NSCC, led a very successful one day work-shop in the changes introduced with the recently released Version 21 of the Dewey Decimal classification system, which is used throughout the public library system in Nova Scotia. This workshop was held at the Provincial Library on Kempt Road, and was attended by cataloguing staff from both Halifax Regional as well as Provincial libraries. DDC21 is now used in all public libraries, and does bring some changes to the shelving of some subject areas.

Training for the Cape Breton Regional Library staff on the Infotrac Databases; General Reference Center and Health Reference Center, took place in Sydney, North Sydney and Baddeck on December 8 and 9, 1997. On the same trip the Eastern Counties Regional Library staff at Margaree Forks received similar training and an evening session for the general public was held at the Port Hawkesbury Library.

Further news on the Infotrac Databases

The Burridge Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College and the Western Regional Health Centre have expressed an interest in joining the library database consortium. Trainers from the Infotrac Company are expected in Nova Scotia in mid-February, and several sessions for consortium members and prospective members are planned. Pricing information for Books in Print available through InfoTrac has been requested and is being researched by User Services staff.

Partnering With Health Groups

Without making too much of a pun, it was gratifying to see that the Western Counties Regional Library and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, have taken to heart the importance of a partnership such as the one being forged with the Western Regional Heart Health Partnership of the Western Regional Health Board. The workshop on Friday, January 23, 1998 in Berwick, brought together partners from school boards, sport and recreation commissions, seniors agencies and libraries to present findings to date on the results of the activities of the Heart Health group. Trudy Amirault, Western Counties Regional Library, Brenda Thompson, Annapolis Valley Regional Library and Carole Compton-Smith, Provincial Library, attended the workshop.

LINKed

For those of us who don't enjoy winter, there is a bright spot - the Winter Olympics which are taking place in Nagano, Japan this year. Highlighted are some great sites with all kinds of information on the Olympics in this month's column.

The Olympic Movement:The World-Wide Web Home Page of the International Olympic Committee at **http://www.olympic.org:80/index.html** has a link to The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland **http://www.olympic.org/museum/index.html** where you can brush up on your knowledge of the

Olympics. It has information on future Olympic locations and dates, Olympic coins and much more background information on the Olympics.

For current news about the Olympics and a calendar of Olympic events, head for Reuters SPORTSWEB site at **http://www.sportsweb.com/homenag.htm**

The Official Web Site XVIII Olympic Winter Games is at: **http://www.nagano.olympic.org/home_e.html**
It features the Snowlets, the mascots of the games. As well as all kinds of information on the games including a schedule, the site provides travel information for Nagano and other places of interest in Japan and a Japanese currency converter.

To get a Canadian perspective on the Nagano Winter Olympics try SLAM! Sports. **http://www.canoe.ca/SlamNagano/home.html**
This site is part of Canoe, Canada's Web Site. There is the latest news about Canadian athletes including biographical profiles.

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact me at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca. -- Carol Morris.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Q. Patron would like the schematics for various radios made in the period from the 1920's to the 1950's.

A. *Excite* search engine was searched. *Great Antique Radio Links* **http://www.concentric.net/~Stwradio/links.htm** was in the list of sites which turned up. This led to a list of sites which included *Nostalgia Air Vintage Radio Resource Page* **http://www.cyberhell.net/NostalgiaAir/** which has a great site called *Online Schematics* at: **http://www.cyberhell.net/NostalgiaAir/schematics/schem000.htm** where the schematics for a large selection of vintage radios are available for free.

Q. What were the living conditions like on board the ships that carried the Acadians away from Nova Scotia during The Expulsion in 1755?

A. The keywords "Acadian history" were put in at the *Savvy Search* engine and one of the sites which turned up was *Canadian Genealogy & History: A listing of Genealogical and Historical Web sites from Sea to Shining Sea* at **www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/cghl.html** which has an *Acadian* link. From this page I chose *Archives du Centre acadien Université Sainte-Anne* at: **www.shelburne.nscc.ns.ca/nsgna/arcca/index.html** and from here there is a link to *The Acadian Odyssey*. *The Acadian Odyssey* site has an article titled "Acadians in Exile 1755-1762 - A look at the deportation, and the conditions during exile" which in turn links to some information on "Conditions at Sea."

Another site listed at the *Acadian* link page was *Acadian-Cajun Genealogy* **http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/3061/** where I found a link to an informative site called *History of the Acadians*. This site has a list of books on the Acadians which should provide more information on conditions on the ships. -- Carol Morris.

PROFESSIONAL READING

Schuler, Douglas. **New Community Networks: Wired for Change**. New York: Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1996. (Call # at Provincial Library, Prof. 307 Sch)
This book discusses the rationale, concerns and directions of socially directed technology. One of its main aims is to help people who are trying to develop and sustain their own community networks. The book examines both community and technology but is more concerned about community than technology; especially the importance of involving community members and organizations in the process. There is an extensive reference section and numerous appendices.

Two excellent recent articles on evaluating internet search engines are:
Haskin, David - **Power Search**. Internet World Vol.8, No.13, December 1997, p. 79-92.
The author tests six of the best search engines available on the net. This article includes tips on how to use the various search engines effectively.

Lidsky, David and Kwon, Regina - **Searching the Net: 36 Sites to Help You Tap the Web=s Resources**. PC Magazine Vol. 16, No.21, December 2, 1997, p. 227-258.
The authors review 35 search sites on the internet. All sites are rated according to specific criteria and their available features. Both articles may be requested on interlibrary loan from our Professional Collection. -- Frank Oram.

TWO NEW MAILING LISTS

DalSLIS-Grad Mailing List

DalSLIS-Grad mailing list is for the use of all graduates of Dalhousie University's School of Library and Information Studies (School of Library Service 1969-1987). DalSLIS-Grad is maintained by the executive of the Associated Alumni, School of Library and Information Studies, Halifax, Nova Scotia. It is an open forum for all SLIS graduates who wish to:
(1) get in touch with fellow classmates.
(2) discuss issues concerning librarians & information professionals.
(3) arrange reunions.
To subscribe to DalSLIS-Grad, send mail to: mailserv@ac.dal.ca with the single line message: subscribe DalSLIS-Grad

DIG_REF - A Digital Reference Services Listserv

The Virtual Reference Desk http://www.vrd.org announces the DIG_REF Listserv. DIG_REF is a forum for the growing number of people and organizations answering the questions of users via the Internet. From Ask-an-Expert (AskA) services to libraries, an increasing number of organizations are creating digital reference services to provide expert information and reference help. To subscribe to DIG_REF:

1. Send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU
2. In the first line of the message, type: SUBSCRIBE DIG_REF Firstname Lastname (Of course, you would substitute your actual name in the line). The DIG_REF listserv computer will respond with an informative message, which will ask for a confirmation. You will then be added if you properly follow the directions.

JOB SITES ON THE WWW

Information on Career Opportunities in the Nova Scotia Civil Service http://www.gov.ns.ca/humr/employ/

Visit the home page of the N.S. Department of Human Resources Employment Opportunities. There are links to available positions in a range of categories, such as professional, technical, contract and casual openings. You can also apply for any job online. This site was mentioned in the August 1997 issue of Disseminator, but since the information is not widely distributed in print form anymore, it's worth repeating.

Some of the other sites have been mentioned before but may have updated links, so please check that you have the latest.

CanWorkInfoNet

http://www.workinfonet.ca/

This site provides some help if you're looking for employment in Canada. Information includes Canada Employment Centre job listings. (From February 1996 issue. This is an updated URL.)

Atlantic Canada Careers

http://www.atl-can-careers.com/

This is a WWW job service aimed at people looking for employment in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland/Labrador, and PEI. (From April 1996 issue)